

SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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BRIGADIER GENERAL JACOB EDWARD SMART, USAF

Jacob Edward Smart was born in Ridgeland, South Carolina, May 31, 1909. He was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and commissioned a second lieutenant of Field Artillery, June 11, 1931. He then began pilot training and in October 1932, was graduated from flying school and rated a pilot. He was transferred to the Air Corps, January 25, 1933.

General Smart's first assignment as an Air Corps officer was with a squadron at Kelly Field, Texas. In April 1933, he was transferred to Albrook Field, Panama Canal Zone, where he remained until June 1935, as a squadron photography, engineer and communications officer.

In July 1935, General Smart became a flying instructor at the Air Corps Primary Flying School, Randolph Field, Texas. He was appointed assistant base adjutant at Randolph Field in July 1937, and a year later became deputy plans and training officer for the Flying Training Command there.

General Smart, in March 1942, was transferred to AAF Headquarters at Washington, D.C., as chief of the Flying Training Section. The following January he was appointed a member of the Advisory Council at that headquarters, and while serving in that capacity performed special missions with the commanding general of the Army Air Forces to the Casablanca Conference, the China-Burma-India theater, the Middle-East theater, and the Quebec Conference.

In October 1943, General Smart entered the Army and Navy Staff College and was graduated in February 1944.

General Smart went overseas in March 1944, to become a staff officer for the commanding general of the Fifth Bomb Wing in the Mediterranean theater. While serving in that capacity, he flew 10 combat missions. In April 1944, he was given command of the 97th Bomb Group, 15th Air Force, in Italy, with which he flew 17 combat missions. On May 10, 1944, he was shot down and captured, remaining a prisoner of war until he was liberated on April 29, 1945.

In September 1945, General Smart was named Secretary of the Air Staff at AAF headquarters, Washington, D. C. In March 1946, he was appointed executive assistant to the commanding general of the Army Air Forces. The following November he became assistant to the commanding general of Air Defense Command, with headquarters at Mitchel Field, New York, and in July 1947, assumed additional duty as deputy chief of staff of Air Defense Command. He was designated assistant to the chief of staff for plans of Air Defense Command in December 1947, and the following May became Deputy for operations of that command.

General Smart entered the National War college, in August 1949, and was graduated in June 1950. He then assumed command of the 32nd Air Division at Stewart Air Force Base, Newburgh, New York. In March, 1951, he was appointed vice commander of the Eastern Air Defense Force at Stewart AFB.

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In December, 1951, General Smart became deputy for operations of the Far East Air Forces at Tokyo, Japan.

General Smart has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, and Army Commendation Ribbon.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant (temporary) March 15, 1935; to first lieutenant (permanent) August 1, 1935; to captain (temporary) September 9, 1940; to captain (permanent) June 11, 1941; to major (temporary) July 15, 1941; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) January 23, 1942; to colonel (permanent) April 2, 1948; to brigadier general (temporary) December 22, 1950, with date of rank from December 15, 1950.

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Up to date as of 3 December 1951